



MEDIA RELEASE

**XVIII Airborne Corps Public Affairs Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2000

FEMALE PARATROOPERS, POPE AIR CREWS LEAD AIRBORNE OPERATION

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The 16th Military Police Brigade will sponsor an airborne operation March 15 at 2 p.m. here in observance of Women's History Month.

While individual jumpers will be male and female, leadership positions, including air crew from Pope Air Force Base, will be female.

The jump will take place at Sicily Drop Zone and will be followed by a program on the drop zone with remarks by retired Col. Mary Maier, the first female commander of the 16th MP Brigade, and a social at the Fort Bragg Officers' Club.

A schedule of events is listed below.

– 30 –

Editor's Note: Media are invited to cover the event and should contact the Fort Bragg Public Affairs Office at (910) 396-5600. There will be room for two cameramen (one still, one video) on the flight. The cameramen's flight footage will be pooled for other interested media. Media wishing to film the Women's History jump or interview air crew should contact the Pope Public Affairs office no later than 9 a.m. on March 13 at 483-4183.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH JUMP

Itinerary

March 15

10:00

Bigler Field: Manifest Call

The paratroopers will be lined up in sequence according to how they will exit the aircraft. The paratroopers will be given sustained airborne training on how to land, and actions for malfunctions.

11:00

Green Ramp: Chute Issue

The paratroopers will get their parachute, put on the parachute, and be inspected by the Jumpmasters. After being inspected the paratroopers board the aircraft. The Jumpmasters will brief the flight crew on Green Ramp at the rear of the aircraft.

1420

Sicily DZ: Airborne Operation

The paratroopers will exit the aircraft, navigate their parachute to the ground, collect their equipment, assemble, and leave the drop zone. The paratroopers will be available for interview after completion of the airborne operation.

1520

Sicily DZ: Guest Speaker

Retired Col. Mary Maier, first female commander of the 16th MP Bde. (Abn) (Jul 95 to Jul 97), will speak after the paratroopers have all assembled adjacent the bleachers.

TBD

Ft. Bragg Officers Club: Social